
START A “CHOOSE KIND LIBRARY”

PURPOSE: To encourage a deeper understanding of and compassion for our differences in order to foster a community of acceptance, empathy, and inclusion.

1. DISCUSS PROJECT WITH SCHOOL ADMINS AND STAFF

- ☐ Familiarize yourself with the book “Wonder” by RJ Palacio
- ☐ Explain proposed idea to principal, school counselor, librarian/media specialist
- ☐ Determine who will be involved and how: PTA? Certain grades/classes? Specific student groups?
- ☐ Decide on a project timeframe – when will work begin? How often will students/staff work on this project? When will the library open?
- ☐ Scope out the library and discuss options for placement of the Choose Kind Library space

2. CREATE TASK GROUPS AND GOALS

- ☐ Communications Team: get the word out to students/staff, parents and the community; plan events, assemblies, presentations and newsletter copy; participate in meetings or interviews regarding the progress of the library project
- ☐ Design Team: design the school logo for Choose Kind Library; work with communications team to design and create fliers, bulletin boards, banners, etc.; sketch ideas for the design of the Choose Kind Library space
- ☐ Junior Librarians: create a book “wish list” for titles to include in Choose Kind Library; work with librarian to take inventory of books already in library; pull books and add new spine label/catalog info
- ☐ Fundraising: set fundraising goal based on number of books needed to fill Choose Kind Library (~500 books); determine best ways to raise money – school-wide fundraiser? Online appeal? Event?; work with librarian to keep track of funds; send thank-you’s to donors

3. SPREAD THE WORD!

- ☐ To students: in the classroom, assembly, announcements, bulletin boards, posters, at school events
- ☐ To parents: e-news, weekly class updates, PTA meetings, school website, school social media, outdoor marquis, at parent events
- ☐ To the community: school marquis, press release, district communications/PR, local media

4. BEGIN FUNDRAISING

- ☐ Sign-up with a web-based donation site like Donors Choose, GoFundMe, etc. – be sure to pay attention to site fees, time limits and ease of accessibility to money when making this decision
- ☐ Have a kick-off event (school assembly, family night, etc.)
- ☐ Distribute or post your book wish-list so donors are able to purchase books needed
- ☐ Keep everyone informed on fundraising progress – use a thermometer, give updates in student news, send home info in parent newsletters

WATCH THE LIBRARY TAKE SHAPE and HOST A RIBBON-CUTTING TO CELEBRATE GRAND OPENING OF THIS WONDERFUL NEW ADDITION TO YOUR SCHOOL!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Wonder, by R.J. Palacio:

- www.choosekind.tumblr.com/resources – the best site for all things Wonder including printable certificates, curriculum lesson plans, and sharable images
- www.rjpalacio.com – book synopsis, author info, and discussion questions for teachers
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fgB7_KpBDss – book trailer from Random House Publishers
- www.mrwreads.blogspot.com – excellent notes to be used in classroom read-alouds
- www.storyboardthat.com/teacher-guide/wonder-by-r-j-palacio - visual storyboards and character maps
- <http://wonderwebbook.weebly.com/wonder-ful-activities.html> - activities for schools, students and librarians to incorporate into their everyday lesson plans

Press for the Choose Kind Library @ Goshen Elementary:

- Courier Journal article – <http://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/local/oldham/2014/10/16/goshen-elementary-library-will-spread-message-kindness/17349529/>
- WLKY News story – <http://www.wlky.com/news/library-based-on-kindness-acceptance-looking-to-branch-out/29461474>
- Oldham County website – “Goshen 5th Graders Choose Kind”
http://www.oldham.k12.ky.us/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1638:goshen-5th-graders-qchoose-kindq&catid=76:elementary-school-news&Itemid=3380
- Oldham County website – “Choose Kind Library Opens at Goshen Elementary”
http://www.oldham.kyschools.us/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1671:choose-kind-library-opens-at-goshen-elementary&catid=76:elementary-school-news&Itemid=2080
- More Skees Please – story behind the start of Goshen’s Choose Kind Library
<http://www.moreskeesplease.com/2014/09/spreading-choose-kind-message.html>

Contacts for Goshen Elementary’s Choose Kind Library:

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